



News for Immediate Release
June 24, 2004

Contacts:

- [Ted Thomas](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9712
- Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce, (800) 655-4653
- [Don Strickland](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9515

**DWR and Rotary Club to Light Up Lake Oroville
With Free Fourth of July Fireworks Display**

Oroville - An annual Fourth of July tradition continues at Lake Oroville this year with a 30-minute fireworks display at no cost to the public. The spectacular show will explode over the huge State Water Project reservoir in Butte County starting at 9:45 p.m.

It's the ninth consecutive year for the holiday event sponsored by the Department of Water resources (DWR) and the Sunrise Rotary Club of Oroville, in cooperation with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the City of Oroville and local businesses.

"Lake Oroville provides Northern California with one of the best fireworks displays in the area," said DWR's Oroville Field Division Chief Dave Starks. "The people who come have an opportunity not only to celebrate our nation's Independence Day but also to learn more about the many recreational facilities within the Oroville Field Division."

Several thousand spectators are expected to view the fireworks from vantage points around the lake with many watching the show from atop the mile-long Oroville Dam. Because of security concerns, vehicle parking will not be permitted on the dam but food and nonalcoholic beverages will be available there from non-profit vendors.

The main road on the crest of Oroville Dam will be closed to vehicular traffic late Sunday afternoon, except for free shuttle buses and vans sponsored by the City of Oroville that will transport spectators.

Beginning at approximately 6 p.m., buses will run every 15 minutes in a loop from city parking lots in downtown Oroville. Shuttle vans will cover portions of the Kelly Ridge area. Buses will pick up passengers at the bus stop behind Raley's on Spencer Street near Mitchell; Lot A in front of the Municipal Auditorium; Lot B on Bird Street at the corner of Downer Street; Lot C behind the State Theatre; and Lot D at the corner of Robinson and

Myers streets.

At the conclusion of the event, shuttle transportation will be available from the center of the Dam to downtown Oroville. In the Kelly Ridge area, public shuttle vans will travel from the south end of the dam to Canyon Drive and on to Almond Drive. From there, the vans will go to Hillcrest Avenue and on to Olive Highway (with pickups at The Oaks and the parking lot of Lakeside Market), then begin the return portion of the loop. The vans can pick up passengers along the way if seats are available and there is a safe stopping spot.

Because the Fourth of July falls on Sunday this year, many people will have a three-day weekend. That will allow ample time to enjoy the many boating, fishing, camping, hiking and riding opportunities at Lake Oroville, which has 167 miles of shoreline and a surface area of nearly 16,000 acres. Boat launch facilities are available at Thermalito Afterbay, the North and South Forebays, as well as on Lake Oroville at the Spillway, Loafer Creek, Lime Saddle Marina and Bidwell Canyon Marina.

DPR operates the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, which offers land and floating campsites, boat ramp facilities, riding trails, and a group equestrian camp.

State Parks officials are reminding holiday visitors of several safety rules:

- Boats must stay outside the marked area around the fireworks launching area.
- Boat running lights are required from sunset to sunrise.
- The speed limit on the lake is 5 mph starting at 30 minutes past sunset.
- Boats must stay 500 feet from the dam.
- If you boat, don't consume alcohol.
- Ground fires are prohibited.

DWR and DPR jointly operate the Lake Oroville Visitors Center at 917 Kelly Ridge Road. The Center offers exhibits about dam construction during the 1960s, the historic legacy of the Oroville region, more than 40 films free of charge, and access to easy walking nature trails. The Center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lake Oroville State Recreation Area has been selected by the organization "Reserve America" as one of the nation's "Top 100 Family Campgrounds," based on criteria requested by family campers.

Situated 75 miles north of Sacramento, Lake Oroville is easily reached via State Highway 70. Lake Oroville is the key storage reservoir of the State Water Project, storing up to 3.5 million acre-feet of water. DWR operates the State Water Project and Oroville Dam, the tallest dam in the United States.

For more information, please contact the Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce at 800-655-4653 or visit www.lakeoroville.net.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

Visit [Archived News Releases](#) or return to the [DWR Home](#)

Contact the [DWR Office of Water Education](#) for more information about DWR's water activities.